

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.590 – An Act Relating to the Safety and Regulation of Dams

Summary

H.590, as amended by the Committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources, would establish a registration fee for persons registering a dam with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to be paid on or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter. Registration fees collected under the bill would be deposited into the Environmental Permit Fund.

DEC classifies dams according to their potential for causing loss of life and property damage in the area downstream of the dam if it were to fail. A jurisdictional dam is one capable of impounding more than 500,000 cubic feet.

Fiscal Impact

Under the bill, dams would be assessed a fee based on the dam's hazard classification. As indicated in the following table, the proposed fee structure would raise \$273,450 annually:

Table of Estimated Dam Registration Fee Revenues

Hazard Level	Fee	Jurisdictional Dams	Non-Jurisdictional Dams	Annual Revenue
Low	\$200	289	99	\$77,600
Unknown	\$200	0	571	\$114,200
Significant	\$350	113	6	\$41,650
High	\$1,000	39	1	<u>\$40,000</u>
Total				\$273,450